

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. *(Original)* A pneumatic tire, in which at least one rib groove extended in a tire circumferential direction is formed on a tread surface portion of a tread portion, and portions discontinuous in terms of rigidity are formed in a circumferential direction of rib lines formed by the rib groove, the discontinuous portions causing variations of tire axle force,

characterized in that rigidity changing portions which cancel the variations of the tire axle force, caused by the discontinuous portions, are provided in the rib groove.

2. *(Original)* The pneumatic tire according to claim 1,
characterized in that the rigidity changing portions are protruding portions which are formed on a wall surface of the rib groove and increase rigidity against tread compression.

3. *(Currently Amended)* The pneumatic tire according to ~~any one of claims 1 and 2~~
claim 1,

characterized in that the discontinuous portions are lug grooves which are formed at an appropriate interval in the circumferential direction of the rib lines and extended in a tire width direction.

4. *(Currently Amended)* The pneumatic tire according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1,

characterized in that the rigidity changing portions are provided at positions opposite to the discontinuous portions in the tire width direction.

5. *(Currently Amended)* The pneumatic tire according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1,

characterized in that the discontinuous portions and the rigidity changing portions are simultaneously present on a footprint line of the tire.

6. *(Currently Amended)* The pneumatic tire according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1,

characterized in that the rigidity changing portions are provided to correspond to every predetermined number of the discontinuous portions.